



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Secretariat, Geneva

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR) *Side Event Report*

Side event title:	Integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Issues into Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action
Organiser(s):	NGO Committee of Mental Health (CONGO) Partners: International Association of Applied Psychology International Association of Schools of Social Work International Council of Psychologists International Psychoanalytical Association International Union of Psychological Science MindFreedom Support Coalition International Soroptimist International American Psychological Association World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation World Council for Psychotherapy World Federation for Mental Health
Speakers and presenters (name, title, organisation):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D. Executive Committee, UN NGO Committee on Mental Health; UN Main representative, International Association of Applied Psychology (DPI/ECOSOC) and World Council for Psychotherapy (ECOSOC); Adjunct Professor of Clinical Psychology, Columbia University Teachers College</i>▪ <i>Margareta Wahlstrom, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</i>▪ <i>Mark Van Ommerman, Co-chair of the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings, World Health Organization (WHO), Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse</i>▪ <i>Inka Weissbecker, Ph.D., Research Scientist and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Center for Hazards Research and Policy Development & Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Louisville; NGO representative of the International Union of Psychological Science</i>▪ <i>Mary K. Weed, Ph.D., Research Associate, Center for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND) on behalf of Lichia Saner-Yiu and Raymond Saner, UN representatives, International Association of Applied Psychology (Geneva)..</i>

Outline of content:	<p>Research and experience shows that disasters have a significant impact on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of individuals, families and communities resulting in threats to overall health, social development and human rights. The panel addressed how psychosocial/mental health interventions are an integral part of any comprehensive program of disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The conclusions encourage the inclusion of these critical issues into the dialogue among UN agencies, governments, NGOs, and civil society to reduce suffering and promote well-being of communities worldwide. The presentations addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The role and importance of mental health perspectives, experts and support systems in disaster risk reduction ▪ Newly released guidelines by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee: "IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings" ▪ A multi-stakeholder model for mental health in disaster preparedness and response in developing countries: A collaboration between government, schools and community agencies in Belize. ▪ Utilisation of knowledge and competence from organizational and social psychology in disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action 	
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Recommendations for the ISDR system (list 2 or 3 items):	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The protection and promotion of psychosocial well-being and the prevention and treatment of mental distress should be recognized as integral to humanitarian efforts and social development, and as essential to build resilient communities for disaster risk reduction. 2) Psychological issues and experts should be integrated into all policies, plans and programs in the ISDR system, in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and in all sectors (e.g. health, education, security, shelter, sanitation, organizational management and systems) through inter-agency collaboration. 3) All ISDR policies, plans and programs should assess and monitor mental health needs, build community capacity, provide resources for interventions, and develop education and training programs to increase psychosocial preparedness in community and institutional settings. These efforts should employ established social, organizational and clinical psychological theories and practice. 	
Additional Information and links:	<p> http://www.mentalhealthngo.org http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/mentalhealth_psychosocial_support http://www.who.int/mental_health/emergencies/en/ Http://www.adequate.org </p>	